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DISARMAMENT/START/MBFRUSSR PEACE COMMITTEE OFFICIAL VIEWS MX VOTE

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[From the "Vremya" newscast: Genrikh Borovik commentary]

[Text] As has already been reported, the U.S. Senate has decided to satisfy the administration's requests to make \$1.5 billion available in the 1985 budget for construction of 21 MX missiles. Over to the writer Genrikh Borovik, deputy chairman of the Soviet Committee for the Defense of Peace:

[Borovik to camera] Hello comrades. The voting you have heard about was very tense. Right up until the last day, it was difficult to forecast the outcome. The administration's representatives spent all their time on Capitol Hill, buttonholing and accosting the senators, shepherding them into corners and accompanying them everywhere. The vice president of the United States, the secretary of state, the secretary of defense, rank-and-file employees of the White House and the Pentagon, all of them alike, were doing this. However, it was left to the President to deal the final blow. We remember how several months prior to the November elections last year, the U.S. President began, all of a sudden, to deliver peacemaking speeches. The press took it upon itself to prove that, at long last, he had become an experienced and wise politician, had taken the peace idea to heart, and was ready to put right relations with the USSR. He even accepted our country's proposal to hold talks in Geneva.

However, the Geneva talks commenced on 12 March, and already on 19 March the Senate was adopting a decision to finance a new batch of the first-strike MX missiles. And it was here, at this juncture, that those who had lent credibility to the President's sincerity began to have their doubts: It was as if something was not quite right.

It was at that time that they heard a battle cry. While visiting Canada on the eve of the voting, the President delivered an anti-Soviet speech in his best old tradition: both about the struggle against the darkness of communism, and that the time has come to halt the Soviet Union; about the warm rays of the sun of bourgeois democracy; and, naturally, about our violations of treaties and so forth.

On his return from Canada, he graced the Senate with his presence in order to persuade, convince, and threaten. If you do not give us the \$1.5 billion, the many billions already spent on MX will be lost, he said. If you do not stock up with them, the program of new, offensive arms technologically bound up with MX will go out the window. He even said the following: A vote for the MX is a vote for universal peace, hinting that a vote against can be regarded as betrayal of national security interests. The main argument was left until the end: The new MX missiles will strengthen the position of the U.S. delegation in Geneva. He was contradicted: How will the position of the U.S. delegation in Geneva be strengthened indeed? After all, the talks underway there are not about arms increases, but about arms limitations. Well, in this way: The American delegation in Geneva shows flexibility and earnestly and sincerely strives for deep reductions in nuclear arms, said the President. The MX and disarmament go hand in hand. I am not parodying; the President of the United States used these very words: "earnestly and sincerely" and "hand in hand."

An illogical and amoral position? Undoubtedly. Dangerous to peace? And how. But, sometimes I think that it is not often that one can expect logic, morality, and conscience from the rulers of a society in which there exist groups of people making money on manufacturing means of destruction and on blood. After all, the very system which is capable of enriching itself on war is illogical and amoral.

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Of course, apart from the sweet thought of huge billions, there is also here an even more honeylike hope. Suppose that, having heard of the MX, the Russians will, nevertheless, take fright, renounce and retreat from everything, from socialism, from the communist idea, and, with them, the whole world will take fright and retreat? And every thing would again be like it was in the olden days, like it was before, at the beginning of the century and, better still maybe, in the last century? Oh, what delightful dreams! They are dressed up in nice words about the warm rays of democracy, but they are underpinned by an idea which, incidentally, is a very old and banal one: to lay one's hands on everything and be master of everything.

In this context, one would like to remind the White House of history. I will be so bold as to voice my suspicion that they are not too well versed in this subject over there. I have in mind here events of 40 years ago. At that time, there also were talks, in Potsdam, and at that time attempts were also made to intimidate us a bit, with the atom bomb. Well, nothing came of it. One should do a bit of reading about this, and there are very good books around. And if they are partial to films in the White House, one can also recommend several films -- not bad, not bad at all -- documentary and feature films alike, made in our country quite recently. Everything is simple and easy to understand in them; the characters are to be seen there.

There is another piece of advice that one can give: A session of the World Peace Council opens in Moscow tomorrow. Let those in Washington listen to what people of the world are talking about and what they are thinking. It may prove very useful indeed.